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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

Recent reports indicate that the Communists are continuing to move political cadre from higher to lower levels in an effort to strengthen their organizational apparatus and revitalize their grass roots leadership.

The transfer of cadre follows reorganizations that appear to have taken place within the last year in the enemy's rear services, postal transportation, provincial headquarters complexes, and administrative units at all echelons. These reorganizations--some are described in captured documents--appear to have had the objective of increasing the efficiency of these elements and of releasing more men for combat.

Press accounts not yet confirmed by official reporting allege that North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops have established a checkpoint on the South Vietnamese side of the Ben Hai River in the Demilitarized Zone. The Communists have reportedly threatened to shoot cameramen who attempt to photograph the bridge.

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NOTES

Japan: The US Embassy in Tokyo gives the opposition Socialist-Communist candidate, Ryokichi Minobe, an even chance of winning the election for governor of Tokyo on 15 April. Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party is backing Masatoshi Matsushita, an independent. A victory by Minobe would hurt Prime Minister Sato and be a boost for the extreme left faction now leading the Japan Socialist Party. Conversely, a Matsushita victory would encourage Socialist moderates to work for a change in their party's leadership.

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Nigeria: The federal government has decided to require in the near future that harbor charges to ships calling in Eastern Nigeria be paid in Lagos, the federal capital. Shell - British Petroleum, the major shipper involved, is objecting strongly at the prospect of paying for port services in Lagos to meet federal requirements and again in the East, where they are rendered. London is expressing to Lagos its official concern about such use of the shipping companies to thwart Eastern attempts to gain financial autonomy.

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Dominican Republic: President Balaguer has made two personnel changes which should ease tensions somewhat during his absence at Punta del Este. Ex - police chief Tejeda has been reassigned to a relatively minor military post in the interior, which should at least postpone threatened resignation of Minister of Interior and Police Amiana. Balaguer's appointment of his controversial military adviser, Colonel Nivar, to a key army command in the Santo Domingo area puts a trusted officer in de facto control of the capital during his absence.

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Nicaragua: The unexpected illness of former president Luis Somoza Debayle has caused the Nicaraguan Government to cancel plane reservations for its presidential delegation to the Punta del Este conference. The former president suffered a heart attack on 8 April.

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His death or prolonged illness probably would not precipitate a political crisis, but it would remove one of the moderating influences on Anastasio Somoza, his younger brother and president-elect.

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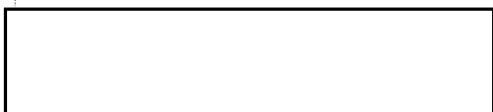
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